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Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FDRE-00 SCS-03 SSO-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 EB-08 IO-13 USIE-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 XMB-02 H-01 AGRE-00 /116 W
----------211838Z 027153 /44
O 211731Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2313

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FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF (OFDA)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE.

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 002030 (BUCHAREST 1774

1. SUMMARY: USGS/NBS TEAM HAS DEVELOPED PRINCIPAL PART OF EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING AND SEISMIC MONITORING PROGRAM. MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS PROVIDED US WITH COST ESTIMATES FOR CERTAIN HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT. ON HOUSING FRONT, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED POSSIBLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT. FROM PARTIAL DATA WE HAVE RANK-ORDERED FOOD ASSISTANCE. MAJOR ROMANIAN INDUSTRIAL NEEDS APPEAR BEST APPROACHED THROUGH CONCESSIONAL, PREFERABLY EXIM CREDIT LINE. END SUMMARY.

2. WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN CLARIFYING ROMANIAN RECOVERY NEEDS AND, AS CONSEQUENCE, REFINING EMBASSY PROPOSALS. IN VIEW OF PASSAGE OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCURRENT RESOLUTION AND WHAT WE ASSUME TO BE DEPARTMENT'S RAPIDLY EVOLVING ELABORATION OF PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE, WE ARE PROVIDING SUMMARY OF NEW ROMANIAN INFORMATION AND OUR FURTHER REFLECTIONS.
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FOR EASE OF CONSIDERATION WE HAVE DEVOTED SEPARATE PARAGRAPH TO EACH AREA OF POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE.

3. EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING/SEISMIC MONITORING:
WE ARE TRANSMITTING SEPARATELY MAJOR PART OF RECOMMENDED PROGRAM OF INSTRUMENTATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DEVELOPED BY USGS/NBS TEAM. WE SHOULD HAVE PROPOSALS

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LATER THIS WEEK FOR DAM-RELATED PORTION OF PROGRAM, WHICH
COULD INCREASE OR REDUCE THAT COMPONENT OF SUGGESTED STRONG-MOTION
PACKAGE. TEAM LEADER CULVER WILL BE IN WASHINGTON TODAY
AND WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND FURNISH ADDI-
TIONAL DETAILS. ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF RECOMMENDATIONS IS
THAT ASSISTANCE BE MADE CONTINGENT UPON FIRM ROMANIAN COMMITMENT
TO MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT AND SHARE INFORMATION DERIVED FROM
PROGRAM. FURTHER FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED IS RESPONSE OF
OTHER POTENTIAL FOREIGN DONORS (GERMANS, JAPANESE AND,
WE BELIEVE, SWEDES) TO WHOM LIST OF EQUIPMENT NEEDS HAVE
BEEN PASSED. WE RECOMMEND BUCHAREST AS BEST POINT OF
COORDINATION ON THIS ASPECT.

4. MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND FACILITIES:
MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS GIVEN US TODAY COST ESTIMATES OF
EQUIPMENT, WHICH RMO IDENTIFIED (PARA 11 OF BUCHAREST 1783).
SEPARATE TELEGRAM TODAY WILL CONTAIN THESE ESTIMATES AND
ONE TOMORROW WILL ADD INDICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR
ORTHOPEDIC AND PHYSICAL REHABILITATION EQUIPMENT WHICH WE
ACQUIRED FROM ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL.

5. HOUSING:
WE ARE CONTINUING TO GRAPPLE WITH THORNY PROBLEM OF HOW
WE CAN MAKE EFFECTIVE AND IDENTIFIABLE CONTRIBUTION IN
THIS IMPORTANT HUMANITARIAN AREA. WE WOULD HOPE THAT
IN FIRST INSTANCE WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO
ROMANIAN REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION FOR GRAVEL
PIT FACILITY TO WHICH MFT ATTACHES FIRST PRIORITY (PARA 3
OF BUCHAREST 2013). MOST PROMISING AID WOULD, IN USGS/NBS
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TEAM'S VIEW, BE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATING TO EARTHQUAKE
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION. THIS ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE OFFERED
BOTH TO CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH AND DESIGN INSTITUTE
(INCERC) AND TO CONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISES WORKING IN RESI-
DENTIAL HOUSING, WHERE TEAM NOTED CONSIDERABLE VARIATION
IN QUALITY OF WORK, IF THIS WERE ACCEPTABLE TO ROMANIANS.
IN AREA OF ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION FINANCING, USGS/NBS
TEAM HAS ADVISED OF PITFALLS ENCOUNTERED IN EARTHQUAKE-RELATED
HOUSING PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN ELSEWHERE. SOME MATERIAL
NEED TO WHICH TEAM DREW SPECIAL ATTENTION IS FOR EPOXY
RESINS TO REPAIR DAMAGED STRUCTURES. WERE GOR TO EXPRESS
DESIRE FOR THIS PRODUCT, TEAM EXPRESSED VIEW THAT USG LOAN OR
GRANT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO FINANCE SALE OF PROPRIETARY
TECHNOLOGY. IN SHORT, THIS IS AREA WHICH WE FEEL IS MOST
IMPORTANT BUT WHERE WE LACK THE BACKGROUND TO KNOW WHAT IS
WORTH TRYING.

6. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS:
DEPUTY MINISTER MARGARITESCU (MFT) CONFIRMED ON SATURDAY THAT ALL

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AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS ON BOTH HIS PRIORITY LIST (BUCHAREST 2013)
AND THAT PRESENTED EARLIER BY FOREIGN MINISTRY MACOVESCU
(PARA 5 BUCHAREST 1774) WOULD BE WELCOME. MARGARITESCU
ALSO PROMISED TO SEEK TO ESTABLISH REQUIRED QUANTITIES.
INDEPENDENTLY, WE ELICITED FROM MINAG TODAY FOLLOWING
ESTIMATES OF EARTHQUAKE-RELATED LOSSES (AND REQUIREMENTS)
OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS REQUESTED ON ROMANIAN LISTS (COTTON
AND HIDES AND SKINS ARE OMMITTED SINCE THEY FALL UNDER
MINISTRY OF LIGHT INDUSTRY):
EDIBLE OIL --20,00-22,00 MT, WHEAT FLOOR--50-60,000 MT,
EDIBLE SOY PROTEIN--2,000 MT, AND SOYBEAN MEAL --50,000 MT.
WE HAVE ASKED BOTH MINAG AND MFT TO PROVIDE SUPPLY AND
DISTRIBUTION DATA TO ALLOW US TO EVALUATE THESE REQUESTS.
AT THIS STAGE, HOWEVER, MINAG HAS SAID THAT DATA IS NOT
AVAILABLE. IN ABSENCE OF SUCH DATA OUR RECOMMENDATION
WOULD BE FOR SMALL TITLE II GRANT PROGRAM FOR EDIBLE SOY
PROTEIN PLUS CCC CREDIT LINE. OUR TOP PRIORITY CCC CREDIT
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WOULD BE FOR SOYBEAN MEAL, WHICH WE APPRECIATE IS NOT PRESENTLY
ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCING. IT MAKES SENSE TO US, HOWEVER,
TO SEEK EXCEPTION IN VIEW OF MEAT PRODUCTION SHORTFALL
IN 1976 AND EARTHQUAKE LOSSES AS WELL AS OUR LONGER-TERM
COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. EMBASSY' S SECOND CANDIDATE FOR CCC
IS, IN ABSENCE OF DATA, COTTON. PORTION OF COTTON WE PROVIDED
WOULD INEVITABLY FIND ITS WAY BACK TO US IN
FORM OF TEXTILES BUT THESE EXPORTS ARE LIMITED BY OUR BI-
LATERAL AGREEMENT. THIRDLY, SOME CCC ON WHEAT COULD
POSSIBLY BE WARRANTED IF DATA SUPPORTED REQUEST. WE
COULD NOT, DESPITE THEIR UNDOUBTED BOOST TO RECOVERY
EFFORT, SUPPORT ANY USG-FINANCING FOR RAW
HIDES NOR EDIBLE OIL IN VIEW, IN CASE OF HIDES, OF
PENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECISION ON SHOE IMPORTS AND,
IN CONTEXT OF OIL, OF ROMANIA'S SUNFLOWER OIL EXPORTS.

7. COMMODITY/EQUIPMENT FINANCING:
UPON FURTHER REFLECTION WE WOULD THINK BEST COURSE, IF IT
IS LEGISLATIVELY FEASIBLE, WOULD BE REDUCED (LOW)- INTEREST EXIM
CREDIT LINE FOR REPLACEMENT OF EARTHQUAKE LOSSES. ON ASSUMPTION
THAT ANY SPECIAL LEGISLATION SOUGHT CAN COPE WITH QUESTION
OF INTEREST RATE SUBSIDY, EXIM WOULD BE NATURAL
MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH TO CHANNEL RECOVERY ASSISTANCE IN
COMMODITY/EQUIPMENT FIELD, SINCE EXIM HAS SUBSTANTIAL BODY
OF EXPERIENCE WITH ROMANIA.

8. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY ANY QUESTIONS
DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE CONCERNING INFORMATION ROMANIA
HAS PROVIDED OR OUR ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS. IN THIS CONTEXT
WE WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT UPON ANY SPECIFIC
PROPOSALS DEPARTMENT/AID DEVELOP FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

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AND WOULD WELCOME IN PARTICULAR THOUGHTS ON HOW TO ATTACK THE
HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION PROBLEM.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, NATURAL DISASTERS, EARTHQUAKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770096-0720
Format: TEL
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770340/aaaabirs.tel
Line Count: 172
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO, US
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